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## Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the State of Virginia.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Shepherd of love, as we begin today's legislative session, we pause to acknowledge Your sovereignty. You sit enthroned between the cherubim, so shower us with gifts from Your bounty.

Today, lead our lawmakers beside still waters and replenish their spirits with Your power. As they grapple with the challenges of our time, give them a faith that will not shrink when facing formidable obstacles. Lord, provide them with wisdom to hear Your voice and the courage to obey Your counsel. Remind them that success comes not by might or power but by Your spirit.

Let Your hand rest on our Nation, and lead it to a greatness that glorifies You. Hasten the day when Your kingdom shall reign.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, September 24, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the State of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want Senator BYRD and the minority response to have the full hour. So when Senator MCCONNELL and I finish whatever remarks we would give, I hope there will be unanimous consent that they could both have a full half hour.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are going to be in a period of morning business until shortly after 3 o'clock, with the time equally divided and controlled. The majority will control the first part, with Senator BYRD taking our time. The final portion will be controlled by the Republicans.

Shortly after 3 p.m., the Senate will proceed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act. The debate time on that conference report will extend until quarter to 6 tonight. The majority manager, Senator BOXER, and Senator INHOFE will be here shortly after 3 to proceed forward with the debate.

Mr. President, I have to comment on this remarkable piece of legislative work. Senator BOXER and Senator INHOFE—you could have no two different political ideologies than the two of them. One is the chairman of the committee, one is the ranking member. That was reversed—INHOFE was the chairman, BOXER was the ranking member last year. They worked together well last year, and they worked extremely well together this year, as evidenced by this bill, which I think sets a good example for all of us here. You do not have to have ideological parity to get things done around here. This is a good example of that.

The vote on the conference report is expected around 5:45 p.m. today. This could never, ever have been accomplished without these two Senators working together. Once the Senate completes action on the conference report this evening, we will decide what we have to do. We have a lot to do this week. I am going to spend some time with the Republican leader and determine how we are going to accomplish what we have to do.

We have, perhaps, SCHIP, we have a continuing resolution, we have a debt limit extension, and we have to finish this bill, which means we probably will not finish this bill this week, but it is something we have to do. So everyone should watch closely what is going on, and we will try to work our way through this. There have been a number of procedural hurdles to get through.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

### MAHMUD AHMADI-NEJAD'S UNITED STATES VISIT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to discuss Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadi-Nejad's visit to New York. The ostensible purpose of this

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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